

Accreditation Revisions Implementation Summary

Prepared for Indiana State Board of
Education

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Prepared By

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Background

Accreditation standards are created by the Indiana General Assembly or action of the Indiana State Board of Education. As recently as February 2009, the Indiana State Board of Education revised standards by which schools were accredited. At that time, the State Board took action to reduce the number of standards from 38 to 29 standards by eliminating some standards and combining others, including the following:

- Elimination of the minimum of 250 minutes of instruction per week during a high school term in order to earn a credit for that course,
- Repeal of the staff/student and administrative/staff ratios language,
- Revision of the textbook requirement to allow computer instructional software, internet resources and other media that align with the state's subject matter standards,
- Re-defined and simplified curricular requirements.

Many of the 29 remaining standards relied on the submission of paper forms, often simply confirming that a school was in compliance with a standard. These 'assurance forms' came to the Department of Education by mail or fax. Each piece of paper would then be logged and manually filed, becoming part of the accreditation process for that school.

In June, Dr. Richard Hogue asked me to examine the accreditation process from a fresh perspective and to examine each of the 29 standards. The initial study was to determine which standards were actually required, by statute or State Board regulations, and which were not.

Our review of each of the 29 standards produced information concerning which requirements should be either a) repealed because they were based on statutes or regulations that had expired, b) were never specifically tied to accreditation by law or regulation, or c) were needlessly complex and could easily be combined in more concise standards. This review also provided us with a list of standards specifically required for accreditation.

Our examination of the accreditation process included dialogue with building principals and district superintendents. Through those conversations we learned that although progress has been made in reducing and reforming the number of standards, building and corporation leaders are still finding the accreditation process unnecessarily burdensome. In some cases, the failure to complete a single assurance form would lead to a lowering of accreditation standing.

Changes

The guiding principles when revising the standards for accreditation were simple. They needed to do the following:

- Be clear and concise.
- Preserve as much local control as possible.
- Require less paperwork, relying instead on available technology for reporting.
- Maintain the integrity of the accreditation process.

<u>Old</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Revised Standards</u>	
1	School Improvement Plan	Retain	Electronic Assurance	1	School Improvement Plan
2	Fire Marshal	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	6	School Safety
3	Health And Safety	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	7	Health
4	IOSHA	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	6	School Safety
5	Emergency Preparedness	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	6	School Safety
6	Tornado/Manmade Occurrence Drills	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	6	School Safety
7	Immunizations	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	7	School Health
8	Visual Acuity	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	7	School Health
9	Audiometer Test	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	7	School Health
10	Protective Eye Wear	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	6	School Safety
11	Student Services	Retain	Electronic Assurance	5	Student Services
12	180 Instructional Days	Retain	DOE-CID	13	Instructional Days
13	Curriculum	Retain	Electronic Assurance	2	Curriculum
14	Textbook Adoption	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	2	Curriculum
15	School Media Report	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	2	Curriculum
16	Special Education	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	2	Curriculum
17	Bilingual Education	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	2	Curriculum
18	Teacher Certification	Retain	Electronic Assurance	8	Teacher Certification
19	Teacher Contract	Retain	Electronic Assurance	9	Teacher Contracts
20	Substitute Teacher Compensation	Retain	Electronic Assurance	10	Substitute Teacher Compensation
21	Staff Evaluation	Retain	Electronic Assurance	11	Staff Evaluation Plan

22	Mentoring/Assessment Program	Not Required For Accreditation			
23	Mandatory Assessment [ISTEP]	Retain	Electronic Report From IT	3	Mandatory Assessment
24	Annual Performance Report	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	14	Annual Performance Report
25	Accurate/Timely Submissions	Retain	Electronic Report From IT	12	Accurate & Timely Report Submission
26	Homework Policy	Consolidate		2	Curriculum
27	Retaining Students/Athletics	Consolidate		2	Curriculum
28	Pupil/Teacher Ratio	Repeal Pending			
29	Administrative/Staff Ratio	Repeal Pending			

During our analysis, we also discovered two required accreditation standards that have not been addressed. Each can be accommodated through an electronic assurance form. They are the following:

- Compliance with graduation requirements. This should be attached as an item to the high school curriculum assurance form.
- Remediation Grant requirements compliance. This should also be added as a part of the curriculum assurance form.

Revised Standards

1. School Improvement Plan
2. Curricular Compliance
 - a. Special Education Compliance
 - b. Bilingual Education Compliance
 - c. Textbook Compliance
 - d. Graduation Requirements Compliance
 - e. Homework Policy
 - f. Prohibition of Athletic Retention
 - g. School Media Requirements
 - h. Remediation Grant Rule Compliance
3. Mandatory Student Assessment Compliance [ISTEP/ECA]
4. Student Services Compliance
5. Student Safety Compliance
 - a. Emergency Preparedness Plan
 - b. IOSHA
 - c. Protective Eye Wear
 - d. Fire Drills
 - e. Tornado & Manmade Disaster Drills
 - f. Fire Marshal

6. Health
 - a. Immunizations
 - b. Visual Acuity
 - c. Audiometer
7. Employment of Certified Teachers Compliance
8. Teacher Contract Format Compliance
9. Substitute Teacher Compensation Compliance
10. Staff Evaluation Plan Compliance
11. Timely Submission of Reports
12. 180 School Days Requirement
13. Publication of Corporation Annual Performance Report

Technology

Through our evaluation, it became apparent that many of the standards could be certified by the building principal using a secure, on-line electronic form. An on-line scoreboard reflecting the building's instant standing will allow a building principal to easily monitor his or her progress toward meeting all accreditation requirements. The use of on-line electronic forms will also significantly reduce the logging and filing of tens of thousands of paper forms and lead to improved accuracy and data management at the Department of Education.

Conclusion














These proposals are the result of an extensive study of state statutes and regulations and conversations with Department of Education staff in the areas of Curriculum, Exceptional Learners and Student Services. There is consensus among these groups that these proposals are consistent with their missions. Additionally, the revisions significantly reduce the burden on local administrators at the school and district levels and do so without compromising the integrity of the accreditation process.

I believe local administrators will view this proposal as positive progress. The standards are clear and concise and preserve as much local control as possible.

Proposed Electronic Accreditation Scoreboard

2009-2010 Academic Year Accreditation Requirements

Primary Scoreboard

1		School Improvement Plan Submitted	Electronic Drop Box Submission
2		Curricular Compliance Assurance Submitted	Electronic Assurance
3		Student Assessment Compliance[ISTEP/ECA]	95% From Assessment
4		Student Services Compliance Assurance	Electronic Assurance
5		Student Safety Assurances Submitted	Electronic Assurance
6		Student Health Compliance	Electronic Transmission
7		Employment of Certified Teachers Assurance Submitted	DOE-CE/CP
8		Standardized Teacher Contract Assurance Submitted	Electronic Assurance
9		Substitute Teacher Compensation Assurance Submitted	Electronic Assurance
10		Staff Evaluation Plan Assurance Submitted	Electronic Assurance + Drop Box
11		Timely Submission of Reports	Electronic Report from IT
12		180 Student Days School Year Required	DOE-CID
13		Publish Annual Corporation Annual Performance Report	Electronic Assurance + Drop Box

